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# DECODON DRA

"The Perfect Lawn"

It will choke  
back Bermuda

FIBER

SEED

REQUIRES MOWING

1955

PLANT FOR A NEW LAWN

SOW IN YOUR OLD LAWN

TRY IT!

Grown by

John L. Bunch

843 E. MISSION DR., SAN GABRIEL, CAL.

# What Is Dichondra?

By JOHN L. BUNCH

843 E. Mission Dr., San Gabriel, Calif.

In his Botany of Northern United States, 1856, Asa Gray gives the following description:

**Dichondra Forst.** Calyx 5-parted. Corolla broadly bell-shaped 5-cleft. Stamens included. Styles, ovaries, and the utricular 1-2 seeded pods 2 distinct. Stigmas thick, small creeping perennial herbs, soft-pubescent with kidney shaped entire leaves, and auxiliary 1-flowered bractless peduncles. Corolla small, yellowish or white. (Name composed of (Gr.) **dis**, double, and **Chondro**, grain, fruit, or seed.)

**Dichondra repens**, Forst. var. *carolinensis*. Choisy. Leaves round-kidney-shaped, pubescent, green both sides; corolla not exceeding the calyx (1"-1.5" long).-moist ground, Virginia near Norfolk, and southward. (Widely diffused in Southern Hemisphere.)

**Dichogamy**, N. Bot. Maturation of stamens and pistils at different periods. Insuring cross pollination.

**Dichotomy**—1. Division into two subordinate parts; hence, a cutting in two; a division. 2. A system of branching in which the main axis forks, repeatedly into two branches. 3. A forking or bifurcation, esp. repeated bifurcation, as of the stem of a plant.

**DICHONDRA** maintains a neat appearance throughout the year. It seldom needs mowing, and requires no renovating.

**DICHONDRA** is a low, dark green creeping plant that quickly forms a thick mat of small, velvety leaves. On superficial inspection one might think the plant a variety of exceptionally compact and dark green clover. Looking

closer one will see that the plant is made up of extremely substantial round leaves, a quarter inch more or less in diameter, that rise on short stems from the runners that creep close to the surface of the soil.

There is little in the general appearance of DICHONDRA that would lead one without a close analysis of the plant, to identify it as being related to convolvulus family, to which it really belongs.

From Gray's description, (it appears that Dichondra repens has been known to botanists for many years). **Although little or no use has been made of it until the past several years.**

Several kinds of plants have been tried as substitutes for the various grasses used for lawns, but nothing yet tried has proven as satisfactory or beautiful as DICHONDRA. There are several reasons for this, first it's rich, dark green color and smooth even covering. **Second, it needs little mowing and no renovating.** Third, it requires no more watering than other lawn plants, and about the same fertilization. Fourth, in DICHONDRA the problem is solved of having a nice green lawn in the thickest shade. Tree roots seem not to affect it, and as its native haunts are among thick shrubbery and shady places, it is well adapted to any ordinary shady place around your home grounds.



## *My many years EXPERIENCE...*

culturing and growing DICHONDRA — producing seed—study the problems of its care in varying climatic and soil conditions throughout the country, etc., warrants the confidence and faith placed in my knowledge of DICHONDRA and qualifies me to claim that **I DO KNOW DICHONDRA.**

I hope I can help those of you who have been misled regarding this plant. It will make a beautiful lawn, but there is much work to be done the **first three months**. Don't think it will take care of itself, unless it is sown in an old lawn.

If properly planted and cared for according to directions, it will produce a most beautiful lawn with the many advantages which DICHONDRA has over other lawns.

# DICHONDRA . . .

*thrives in shade or sunshine*

## ● **Uses of Dichondra**

- The primary use of DICHONDRA is, of course, to replace the bothersome grass lawn.
- Grown between flag stones in the patio, DICHONDRA is a charming, satisfying rich green. It stays in the crevices where planted and requires little or no attention except watering.
- Planted through a shrub border DICHONDRA will form a perfect cover, keeping the surroundings much cooler through the summer and relieve the harshness of bare soil.



# Dichondra Liquid Fertilizer

## Number 1

Comes in powder form to be mixed with water. One package of the Fertilizer will make 20 gallons of liquid. This Fertilizer is high in nitrogen—just what the plant requires. The price of the Fertilizer is \$1.75 per package, post paid. One package will cover 1,000 square feet. It will give the leaves a rich dark velvety green color. This Fertilizer should be applied two times a year.

**CAUTION: NEVER USE MANURE FERTILIZER.** Never use manure of any kind on DICHONDRA as the average manures are full of weed seed and in most cases will burn and kill your plants. We only recommend the Liquid Fertilizer.



We recommend using our special syphon as shown above for applying fertilizer from container. This Fertilizer and syphon can be used to spray any other lawn grasses, any of your plants such as roses, azaleas, camellias and pansies and will not harm or burn the plant if mixed according to directions.

The price of the syphon is \$2.00 post paid. This syphon will spray 20 gallons in 10 minutes on average water pressure.

# Facts

## About Dichondra

By Bunch

To those thousands who will be using it from now on I wish to explain a few simple facts and cite some real reasons why DICHONDRA will always be the preferred lawn.

- First—It is a much richer green in color than other grasses.
- Second—It creates a much stronger turf and heavy usage only helps build it stronger.
- Third—It chokes back Bermuda (Devil grass).
- Fourth—Mowing three or four times a year will keep it in satisfactory condition. More often is optional.
- Fifth—It requires about the same fertilization and water as other lawns.
- Sixth—It is permanent in either sun or shade.
- Seventh—It does not make a thick mat like Bermuda.

- Eighth—Make use of DICHONDRA as you would any lawn. Walk on it as much as you please. It will not hurt it in any way.
- Ninth—In planting Dichondra seed you will be free from Nematodes, unless the Nematodes are in your soil. As seed will not carry Nematodes.
- Tenth—No sod worm or moth will bother DICHONDRA.
- Eleventh—Do not use poisons of any kind for it will injure the runners of the plants.
- Twelfth—Never use manure of any kind on Dichondra as the average manures are full of weed seed and in most cases will burn and kill your plants. We only recommend the Liquid Fertilizer.
- Thirteenth—DICHONDRA Fertilizer No. 1 is high in nitrogen which the plant requires.
- Fourteenth—Don't use fertilizer until six weeks after planting. Then the only fertilizer we recommend is a liquid fertilizer. We have this special mixed fertilizer at all our sales yards throughout the country.

#### **DICHONDRA FERTILIZER NO. 1**

- Fifteenth — We recommend fertilizing twice a year for the very best results. We advise weeding until that time arrives. For quickest results in coverage after planting, keep your DICHONDRA WELL WATERED.
- Sixteenth—DICHONDRA will not become a pest as it is easily controlled.

## *Planting a Dichondra Lawn*

- For new lawns we recommend sowing clover with DICHONDRA seed for the winter season only! The clover will give a quick covering and help to choke back the weeds.
- After about 6 months the clover will start to disappear and you will see a good growth of DICHONDRA.
- For a new lawn prepare the soil as you would a grass lawn. Work up the soil thoroughly, level off a smooth surface, then you are ready for planting seed.
- Sow the seed broadcast, or you may mark the ground off in 6-inch squares, dropping 4 to 6 seeds in each corner of the squares. Then rake seed in lightly with common garden rake. Water well for first 6 days. After 6 weeks spray with our liquid fertilizer, DICHONDRA FERTILIZER No. 1. (We suggest using our perfected syphon as shown in illustration.)

### **PLANTING THE SEED IN OLD LAWNS**

You may have your old lawn power raked or rake it by hand. Sow the seed broadcast. In about 1 to 2 years it will take over your old lawn, choking back other grasses. This has been proven and I can show you lawns from 1 to 14 years old, that have grown from seed and are thriving beautifully.

## *East and Middle West Planting*

Now for planting in eastern and middle western states, I would advise spring and early summer planting. This gives the plant time to make its own seed, then your lawn will return each spring from its own roots and seed, so you are sure of a good lawn each year.

### **SPRING OR SUMMER PLANTING**

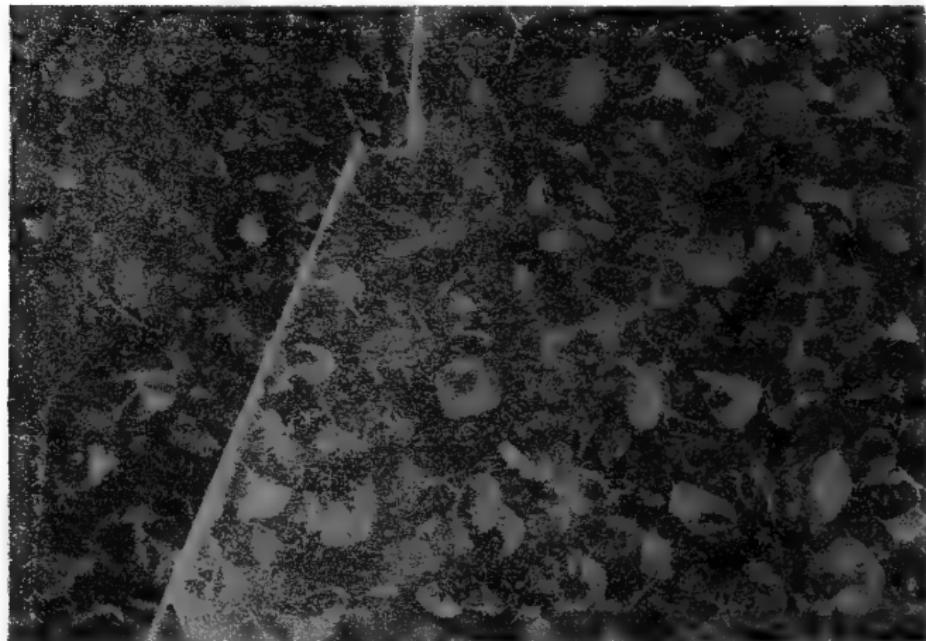
The summer season is the best growing period for DICHONDRA. It will grow in cold weather, but much slower. An inexpensive way to plant it would be to sow seed in the present lawn that you have, but this method would require 1 to 2 years to completely choke back the regular lawn. The best method is to plant it as a new lawn, or dig out the present one.

### **FALL AND WINTER PLANTING**

Sow clover or other grasses with DICHONDR A seed. Rake in lightly. Your Dichondra will start to make a good showing in May or June, having strong rooting for fast growth. When mowing clover, mow close, never leave clippings on the lawn, as they will burn the DICHONDRA.

## *Progress of Growth from Seed*

The seed will start to germinate in about 6 days under normal conditions pushing the seed pod up on top of two sharp pointed leaves. The hull falls off and the sharp pointed leaves will lay close to the surface of the ground, pointing in opposite directions. About six days after the pointed leaves have appeared 2 round leaves will also appear, and then 12 leaves. After that the runners appear and the plant commences to grow rapidly. The growth of each runner is about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches per week.



ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH of Dichondra approximately 70 days from seeds . . . showing continuous multiplication of leaves from runners.

## **Dichondra Seed Coverage**

One seed will give a spread of about 6 to 9 inches in 70 days under normal conditions.

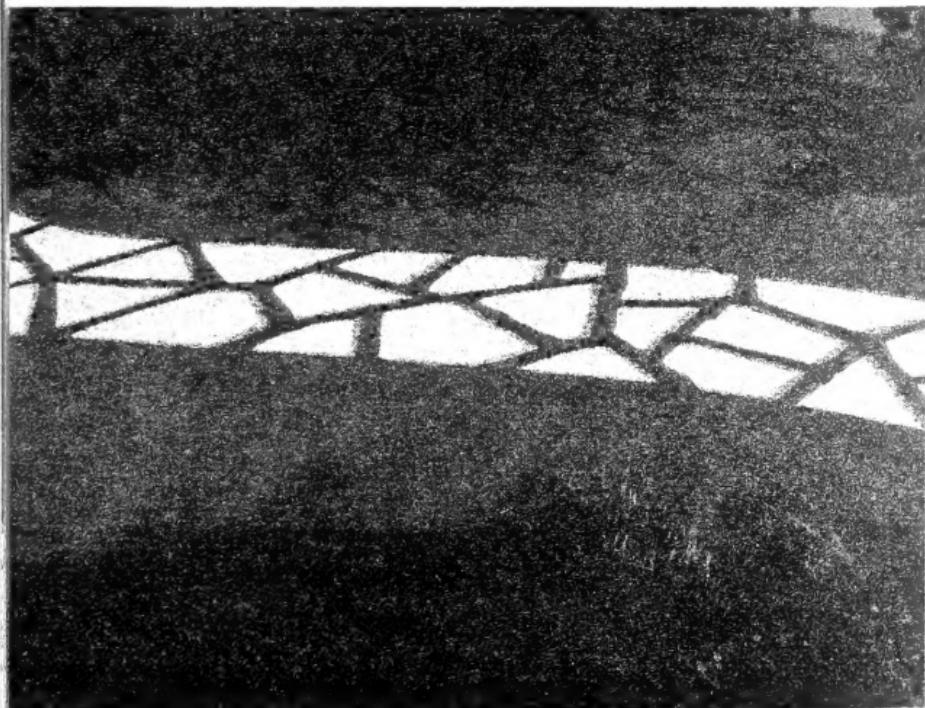
For every 1,000 square feet I recommend 50,000 seeds. The market price at present is \$5.00 for 50,000 seeds. The 50,000 packet will give you 50 seeds to the square foot.

There is also a packet of 12,000 seeds on the market which sells for \$1.25, and will cover 300 square feet, approximately 40 seeds to the square foot.

### **PURCHASE OF DICHONDRA SEED**

Seeds may be purchased from your local nurseries and most seed stores, or from our growing grounds throughout the country.

Or by direct Mail from Mr. John L. Bunch,  
postpaid.



## DICHONDRA IN FLATS

The sod in the flats is 16 inches square. This can be cut into approximately 150 cubes to the flat, placing each cube 6 inches apart as shown below.

x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

It will take two flats of sod to plant 100 square feet. This would be a space 10x10. Under normal conditions, this lawn will cover over in approximately 70 days.

## PLANTINGS FROM PLANTS

A lawn can be planted from the plants, the flats can be purchased from the nurseries, most seed stores, and our growing grounds throughout the country.



# *Characteristics of* **... DICHONDRA**

I have had many inquiries as to why Dichondra turns yellow and then brown spots appear. I will try to answer these questions and at the same time suggest a remedy for the same:

DICHONDRA blooms in the months of March and April. Very soon after the blooming period 2 seeds form on top of the stems, then the stem turns down, tucking the seeds just at the surface of the ground, leaving the seed bare.

As there is no soil to cover them the leaves of the plant turn yellow and commence to fall off the stem. This is done by the plant to throw down enough leaves to cover the seed. It will go so far as to kill all its leaves where the seeds are thick, to create a mulch to make the seed sprout.

This can be controlled by using the liquid fertilizer we have recommended (DICHONDRA FERTILIZER No. 1). What this fertilizer does is to stimulate the growth of DICHONDRA, bringing back the new leaves.

**NOTICE:** John L. Bunch can give no guarantee, express or implied, as to productiveness of any seeds. **If planted properly seed will grow.**

*Mail Orders Filled Promptly*



**John L. Bunch**

**843 E. MISSION DR.—SAN GABRIEL, CALIF.**

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